

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congressman Allen Boyd (D-North Florida) today capped his year-long efforts to delay the Air Force's plan to retire the F-15s stationed at Tyndall Air Force Base. In the final Defense Appropriations bill, Congressman Boyd included a provision that will postpone the movement of any F-15s from Tyndall until April 1, 2010 and require the Air Force to provide Congress with detailed reports on the long-term effects the drawdown will have on our defense capabilities and local economies. The Fiscal Year 2010 Defense Appropriations Bill passed in the U.S. House of Representatives today with Congressman Boyd's support.

"This bill represents a tremendous legislative victory for Bay County and is the result of a year's worth of efforts by our community. Working together, we have put Tyndall in a strategic position to be a key component of the Air Force's next generation fighter infrastructure. We have highlighted to the Air Force the invaluable role Tyndall makes to our national defense and our local economy," said Congressman Boyd. "I want to thank the people of Bay County, particularly the Bay Defense Alliance, who have been partners with me as we worked together to protect the economic interest of our community and security interests of our country."

Congressman Boyd's provision calls for an independent review by the Federally Funded Research and Development Center to analyze the impact that the drawdown would have on our nation's combat air forces. More specifically to the Bay County community, the Air Force would be required to submit a cost-benefit analysis of its proposal to move F-15 training to Kingsley, Oregon.

Earlier this year, the Air Force announced its intention to accelerate the retirement of F-15s assigned to Tyndall and proposed starting to draw down the fleet in January 2010. Since that time, Congressman Boyd and his partners in the community have taken a number of steps to postpone the drawdown until the Air Force provides detailed assessments of the national security and economic ramifications of the early withdraw. Congressman Boyd has held numerous conversations with senior Air Force personnel throughout the year, and in June, he invited the Secretary of the Air Force, Michael Donley, and Air Force Chief of Staff, General Norton A. Schwartz, to Tyndall to see firsthand the tremendous support the base receives from the Bay County community, as well as the vital role Tyndall plays to our security.

"This achievement is the result of Congressman Boyd's ongoing efforts to build a productive, valuable relationship with General Schwartz and Secretary Donley," said Tom Neubauer, President of the Bay Defense Alliance. "This has afforded our community the opportunity to present the outstanding capabilities of Tyndall to Air Force leadership as we work to secure a

replacement mission for F-15 Air Superiority training in the future. The coming months are crucial, and the Bay Defense Alliance will continue working closely with Congressman Boyd and coordinating our efforts with his office.”

In addition, Congressman Boyd secured more than \$17 million in federal funding to develop advanced defense technologies at both the Air Force Research Lab at Tyndall and the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Panama City.

“Both Tyndall and the Navy base serve as critical hubs for developing next-generation technologies that strengthen our military,” Congressman Boyd stated. “This federal funding will allow our region to continue its tradition of making vital improvements and enhancements to our nation’s multifaceted security efforts.”

Congressman Boyd secured federal funding in the defense appropriations bill for the following projects in Bay County:

- **\$4 million** to help the Air Force derive 50% of its aviation fuel from non-petroleum based sources by 2016.
- **\$3.04 million** to enhance deployable command and control capabilities and interoperability of emergency operation systems.
- **\$2.88 million** to support the development and sustainment of Special Forces equipment.
- **\$2.4 million** to develop tow cables for vital Navy assets.
- **\$2 million** to create a better, safer, cheaper, environmentally-friendly fire suppression technology critical to Air Force installations throughout the country.
- **\$1.52 million** to assist the Navy in developing a non-gasoline engine for Special Forces equipment.
- **\$1.44 million** to enhance command and control by creating a common software program to service various naval platforms.

The bill now awaits action by the U.S. Senate before being sent to the President for his signature before the end of the year.

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